

Sea Grant Association

January 17, 2004

NOAA Research, Science Advisory Board
c/o Ms. M. Whitcomb
Silver Spring Metro Center Bldg 3, Room 11558
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Research Review Team:

The Sea Grant Association (SGA) appreciates this opportunity to supplement the comments we provided to you on December 1 (attached). These supplemental comments are based on review of the draft preliminary Research Review Report released on Dec 18th.

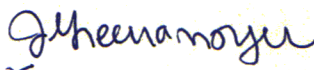
We are in strong support of the draft Report and very much appreciate your efforts to date. However, we believe that the draft Report is missing one key element - a means by which NOAA must get input on its research enterprise activities from NOAA's external constituencies.

Specifically, we believe that it is important to include a mechanism for academic, public and other stakeholder input into the development of a NOAA-wide Research Plan. As stated in our December 1 comments, NOAA should formally apply the planning/outreach model used by agencies such as NSF and NIH to engage the extramural-university community in workshops and other forums aimed at generating NOAA priorities for research, education and outreach in key programmatic areas. This would ensure that NOAA's programmatic priorities reflect the current state-of-knowledge concerning coastal, marine, and Great Lakes resource issues and vest the extramural community in a partnership effort to ensure that NOAA priorities are adequately addressed.

In addition, the proposed Research Board should be required to perform significant outreach to NOAA partners and constituencies and the decisions of this Board regarding NOAA research priorities should be based largely on the results of that outreach.

Thank you again, on behalf of the Sea Grant Association, for providing us with an opportunity to offer input to the Review Committee, and we look forward to your final report. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,


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